



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAQ Project Selection Committee

**Date:** November 10, 2009

**From:** Holly Ostdick, Associate Planner

**Re:** Implementing Option C

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At the October 30 meeting, Committee members recommended that CMAP should move in the general direction of option C for implementing the \$83 million rescission of CMAQ funding and requested "fleshing out" of the Option prior to your November 17 meeting.

Option C moves all projects with no obligations onto a Multi-Year A list. Projects included in the Multi-Year B list approved per the active program management guidelines will be reviewed in May 2010 to identify candidates for programming only if sufficient progress is not made in obligating projects on the Multi-Year A list.

Below are some implementation specifics:

- All projects with 100% unobligated funds will be moved to a Multi-Year A (MYA) list.
  - \$194,536,303 Funds
  - 153 projects
  - The MYA list will include the newly programmed FY 2010 and FY 2011 projects, which are being added to the TIP at the November 20, 2009 TC meeting. This allows these projects to obligate before January.
- The MYA projects will be removed from the TIP if the MPO Policy Committee approves using Option C.
  - The project will still have a TIP ID number.
  - Projects will appear in the TIP database, but with the fiscal year changed to MYB, which means that the project is not actually funded.
  - The project can still move forward with review from reviewing agencies (RTA, IDOT).

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- The project cannot be obligated until it is within the selected year of the TIP.
- The project sponsor will be required to request that the project be moved into the selected year of the TIP so it can be obligated.
  - Reviewing agencies will have to confirm the project is ready to be moved into the current year of the TIP.
  - Staff will administratively make these changes; if funding becomes limited and more projects are ready for obligation then funds available; a CMAQ PSC meeting will be called.
  - TIP changes are scheduled in coordination with the FTA grant cycles, IDOT letting schedule and federal authorization dates, therefore projects following those schedules will not be delayed due to pending TIP changes
  - The Transportation Committee meets every month except for February and October; the MPO Policy Committee can also approve TIP changes and meets in October.
  - Transit Projects will be added to the TIP when the RTA approves the agencies' programs with the project included.

In addition to removing enough projects from the TIP to meet fiscal constraint, this option has the added benefit because it allows for a “first ready, first funded” approach to bringing projects back into the TIP. It requires project sponsors to closely monitor their projects to ensure inclusion in the TIP before requesting authorization and allows for cost increases for projects that are ready to be obligate. Languishing projects are still subject to active program management requirements – following a one-time move, they have a limited time to obligate before being considered for withdrawal from the program.

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